

Small Group Guide: Eyewitnesses of the Risen King

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by thanking God for His Word and asking the Holy Spirit to open your hearts and minds to understand the significance of Christ's resurrection and your role as His witnesses today.

Icebreaker

Share about a time when you witnessed something significant firsthand. How did being an eyewitness change the way you told others about it?

Key Scripture Passages

- Luke 24:36-49
- Acts 1:1-11
- Luke 1:1-4

Key Takeaways

1. The Importance of Eyewitness Testimony

The apostles were not sharing myths or ideas—they were eyewitnesses who saw, heard, and touched the risen Christ. Their testimony forms the foundation of our faith.

2. Jesus' Resurrection Was Intentional, Not Accidental

Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection were part of God's plan from before the foundation of the world. This was not a tragedy but a triumph over sin and death.

3. The Command to Wait

Before the apostles could be witnesses, they had to wait for the Holy Spirit. Power for ministry comes from God, not our own strength or enthusiasm.

4. We Are Part of This Story

Though we weren't physical eyewitnesses, we are part of the body of Christ, called to live out this faith in our relationships and daily obedience.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. **Read Luke 24:36-43.** Why do you think Jesus went to such lengths to prove He was physically risen (showing His hands and feet, eating fish)? What does this tell us about the nature of His resurrection?
2. **In Luke 24:44-47,** Jesus "opened their minds to understand the Scriptures." How does understanding the Old Testament help us better understand who Jesus is and what He accomplished?
3. **Read Acts 1:4-8.** Why did Jesus command the disciples to wait rather than immediately go out and share the good news?

Personal Reflection

4. The pastor said, "It takes just a little faith to be saved, but we have faith-seeking understanding." How would you describe your current journey of seeking understanding? What helps you grow in your knowledge of God's Word?
5. The sermon emphasized that Jesus' death was "not a tragedy" but part of God's intentional plan. How does this perspective change the way you view suffering or difficult circumstances in your own life?
6. The pastor challenged us: "Have you only believed for salvation?" What does it look like to move beyond initial belief to daily obedience and transformation?

Application and Action

7. **Relationships and Reconciliation:** The pastor said, "When we understand this story... it impacts every relationship that I have." Is there a relationship in your life where the Holy Spirit is convicting you to seek reconciliation or forgiveness?
8. **Sacrificial Love:** The sermon emphasized loving others sacrificially, the way Christ loved us. Where is this most difficult for you right now? What would sacrificial love look like in that situation?
9. **Being Witnesses:** While we aren't eyewitnesses like the apostles, we are still called to be witnesses of Christ's work in our lives. Who in your life needs to hear your testimony about what Jesus has done for you?

Reflection Questions for the Week

- How does believing in the literal, physical resurrection of Jesus change the way I live today?
- Am I living as though I will stand before Christ and give an account for how I loved Him and others?
- Where am I demanding justice from others while ignoring the mercy I've received at the cross?

Closing Prayer Points

- Thank God for the eyewitness testimony of the apostles and the reliability of Scripture
- Ask the Holy Spirit to convict and empower you to live in obedience
- Pray for courage to seek reconciliation where needed
- Ask God to help your group reflect Christ's character in all relationships
- Pray for opportunities to be witnesses of the risen Christ this week